

REMARKS

Amendments

Applicants have amended claims 1-4 and 8-13. In addition, a total of 11 new claims have been added (new claims 16-26) and 4 claims have been canceled (claims 5-7 and 15). The required fee for the examination of seven additional claims is enclosed. Claims 1-4 and 8-14, and 16-26 are currently pending in this application.

Claim 1 was amended to more specifically describe the claimed method. Support for this amendment can be found in the Specification, for example, in Examples 1 and 3.

Claims 2-3 have been amended to improve readability and to replace “tag” with “marker moiety.” These amendments are supported in original claims 1-3.

Claim 4 have been amended to improve readability. Support for this amendment is in original claim 4.

Claims 8-10 and 13 have been amended to improve readability. Support for these amendments are in original claims 1, 5-7, 8-10 and 13.

Applicants have amended claims 11 and 12 to recite specific aspects of the recited methods. Support for these amendments can be found in the Specification, for example, on page 3, lines 20-26 (or page 3, lines 13-24 of GB0002215.2) and throughout page 6, line 19 - page 10, line 27 (or page 7, line 30 – page 10, line 19 of GB0002215.2).

Applicants have added new claims 16-25. These new claims are supported throughout the specification. Specific examples of support are as follows. Support for new claims 16-19 is in Example 1. In addition, support for new claim 18 is on page 8, lines 15-26 and support for claim 19 is also in Example 2. Support for claims 20 is on page 27, lines 12-13. Support for new claims 21 and 22 is on page 4, lines 18-22. Support for new claim 23 is present throughout Example 1, such as, for example, on page 15 line 16. Support for new claim 24 is in original claim 1. Support for new claim 25 is in original claim 1 and in the paragraph spanning pages 4 and 5. Support for new claim 26 is in page 10 line 23 to page 11, line 9.

Since none of the amendments presented herein constitute new matter, their entry is requested.

Restriction Requirement

The Office Action restricted the pending claims into seven groups as follows:

- Group 1: Claims 1-4 drawn to a method for making a protein array, classified in class 435, subclass 7.9.
- Group 2: Claims 5-7, drawn to a protein array, classified in class 436, subclass 524.
- Group 3: Claims 8-9, 11 and 15, drawn to a method of using the array (protein/compound or protein/protein interactions), classified in class 435, subclass 6.
- Group 4: Claims 10 and 11, drawn to a method of using the array (protein/nucleic acid interaction), classified in class 435, subclass 7.8.
- Group 5: Claim 12, drawn to any use of the array for screening antibodies, classified in class 436, subclass 518.
- Group 6: Claim 13, drawn to a method for making an antibody array, classified in class 435, subclass 7.92.
- Group 7: Claim 14, drawn to a method of using the array of claim 13, classified in class 435, subclass 7.1.

Applicants elect Group 1, claims 1-4, for prosecution with traverse. The restriction is traversed because the groups are directed to methods of making an array, the array itself, and methods of using the array and it would not be an undue burden to examine all the claims together. However, solely in an effort to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended all the pending claims in this application to depend on at least one of the elected Group 1 claims (claim 1 to 4). In view of the fact that all pending claims incorporate the recitations of at least one claim of Group I, the restriction requirement is moot and should be withdrawn.

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Conclusion

On the basis of the foregoing amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If there are any questions regarding these amendments, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

If the enclosed papers are considered incomplete, the Mail Room and/or the Application Branch is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at 212-935-3000, New York, New York.

Applicants believe no further fee is due at this time; however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees that may be due, or to credit any overpayment, to the undersigned's account, Deposit Account No. 50-0311, Reference Number: 27353-501 UTIL (Customer Number: 35437).

Respectfully submitted,



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